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ELKTON FARM FIREHOLE REMOVAL

Zeitler Road, Elkton, Maryland

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ~ Region III

EPA To Begin Cleanup:

This February, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will begin to remove contaminated soil from the Firehole portion of Elkton Farm.** The site soils are polluted with TNT and unexploded Munitions of Explosive Concern (MEC) from the WW2 era. People would be at risk if they accidentally set off unexploded MEC by walking on the area.

EPA will conduct their work in two phases. During phase one, EPA will clean up the surface level contamination at the site. EPA will begin phase one in February. Phase one activities could last for three to six months, depending on weather conditions and the amount of potentially explosive material found.

Buried wastes, found below the top 18 inches of soil, will remain at the completion of phase one. During phase two, EPA will remove all buried wastes from the site. Phase two will begin later this year.

** Please see 'Site History' on the reverse side for a definition of the Firehole.

Phase One Details:

Phase one activities include investigation and removal of Munitions of Explosive Concern (MEC) at the surface. The surface is defined as the top six inches to eighteen inches of the site soils.

1. The 55 acre site will be gridded into square boxes, 100 feet by 100 feet in size.
2. Each grid will be further subdivided into 5-foot-wide lanes.
3. Each lane will be swept with a magnetometer, a machine that finds sources of magnetism, and all metal material will be flagged.
4. All metals will be investigated for explosive potential and logged into a database.
5. Non-explosive material will be shredded.
6. All potentially explosive items will be staged for further treatment.

For More Information:

Visit EPA on the Internet. Site information is available at:
http://www.epaossc.org/site_profile.asp?site_id=1299

Or contact EPA staff:

Charlie Fitzsimmons
On-Scene Coordinator
410-305-3027
fitzsimmons.charlie@epa.gov

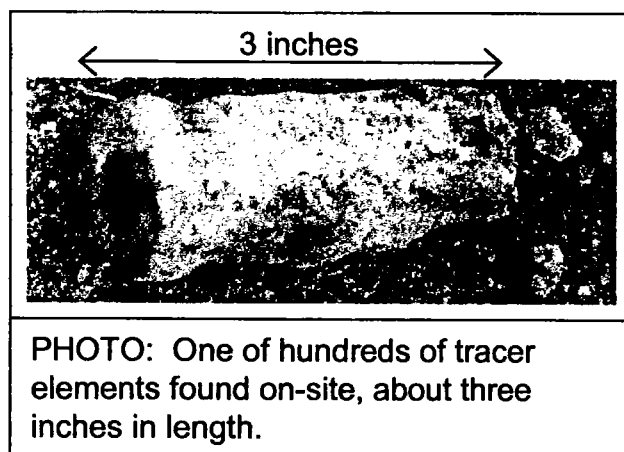
Wendy Jastremski
Community Involvement Coordinator
1-800-352-1973, extension 4-5222
jastremski.wendy@epa.gov

Shawn Garvin
Government Affairs
1-800-352-1973, extension 4-2998
garvin.shawn@epa.gov

Site History:

The Elkton Farm Firehole Site is located two miles northwest of Elkton, Maryland on Zeitler Road. The site consists of an open field that has historically been used for agricultural purposes but for a brief period during and around the second world war (WW2). During this period of time, Triumph Industries, Inc., which manufactured military munitions during WW2, used about 32 acres of the field for the burning and disposal of waste explosives materials. Triumph placed the wastes into one or more pits in the field and then allowed to burn. Over the years, these materials were spread out over about 55 acres of the site. We will refer to the entire contaminated area as the "Firehole."

The exact location of the Firehole was not known until the early 1990's when the Department of Defense found historical documents from Triumph Industries giving an approximate location of the Firehole. After verifying the Firehole's existence, the State of Maryland requested EPA's assistance in cleaning up the Firehole. The contamination, such as the tracer element shown below, has been at the site for over 50 years and no casualties have occurred.



For information about the planned development at Elkton Farm, call:

Mr. Eric Sennstrom
Cecil County
Planning Director

129 E. Main Street
Elkton, MD 21921
Phone: 410-996-5220
Fax: 410-996-5305
Email: esennstrom@ccgov.org



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Attn: Wendy Jastremski, Mailcode 3HS52
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103